

**1. Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the first paragraph of the specification, the paragraph beginning on line 4 of (un-numbered) page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph (paragraph [0001] in published application US 2002/0152432):

The following applications containing related subject matter and filed concurrently with the present application on April 13, 2001 are hereby incorporated by reference: Serial No. 09/833,771~~TBD, Attorney Docket No. 10010269-1~~, entitled System and Method for Detecting Process and Network ~~Non-Process~~ Failures in a Distributed System Having Multiple Independent Networks, Publication No. US 2002/0152432 A1; Serial No. 09/833,573~~TBD, Attorney Docket No. 10010271-1~~, entitled Probationary Members, Publication No. US 2002/0161849 A1; and Serial No. 09/833,572~~TBD, Attorney Docket No. 10010270-1~~ and entitled Adaptive Heartbeats, Publication No. US 2002/0152446 A1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph (paragraph [0026] in published application US 2002/0152431):

In step 405, process A receives a heartbeat from a first process (e.g., process B in system 100). In step 410, a timer is started for detecting a heartbeat timeout of a second process (e.g., process C) in distributed system 100 that is monitored by process A. In step 415, process A determines whether a heartbeat is received from process C. If a heartbeat is received from process C, the timer is cancelled (step 420). If a heartbeat is not received from process C, process

A determines whether the heartbeat timeout for process C is expired (step 425). The heartbeat timeout may be predetermined or adaptive, similar to the process failure threshold. An adaptive heartbeat timeout technique is described in co-pending U.S. Pat. Application Ser. No. .  
09/833,572 TDD, entitled Adaptive Heartbeats and incorporated by reference herein. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that a predetermined heartbeat timeout may be determined based upon the network configuration, average network traffic and other factors relevant to network transmission.